

~~SECRET~~x: Robinson, Donald  
x: Brown, Irving

31 October 1952

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

FROM: Assistant to the Director

A telephone call was received from Charles Stevenson (Selkirk Drive, Chevy Chase, Wisconsin 8743) of READERS DIGEST, who said:

On page 111, September issue, READERS DIGEST, was an article by Donald Robinson on Brown versus Joe Stalin. Westbrook Pegler, Hearst columnist, late in September and in columns that appeared in the Washington TIMES-HERALD on 6, 7, and 21 October, attacked Brown, a labor leader, a Mr. Henson, and Jay Lovestone, so that letters in some quantity are being received by READERS DIGEST attacking them for publicizing such people, etc. He said he understood that the author, Donald Robinson, was not too popular in some places in Washington, though he had been on Ike's staff in Europe, but the attacks were mainly on the labor people. Mr. Stevenson said he went to a Government agency--not the State Department--to ask guidance as to whether the DIGEST should disregard the letters, or should defend the article and if it is to be defended, how it should be defended; should they say that these people are all the things Pegler says--blackmailers, ex-communists, etc.--but they are now serving our country well. He was told, he said, to try the CIA for guidance since this agency may have some interest.

Mr. Stevenson said he knew two CIA employees who would vouch for his patriotism, character, etc., and he does not know their duties. They are:

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Mr. Stevenson says READERS DIGEST does not have further articles but would like to have guidance on what to do re the letters.

I told him I knew Robinson in the War Department when he was in Public Relations, having come from the New York JOURNAL, where he had been Labor Editor, and I would agree he was not too popular and I was the one who sent him to England.

I told him I would call him back. When may I discuss this with you?

STANLEY J. GROGAN

ODCI/SJG:nhh

6 November 1952. Agreed at 12:00 noon conference with Mr. Dulles to inform Mr. Stevenson that CIA could give him no guidance. So informed Stevenson. Also told Stevenson if in future READER'S DIGEST has anything they think might be of interest to CIA, we would be glad to cooperate before publication. He mentioned FBI and possible Red connections of the author. I told him I did not believe Robinson, who worked under me in the War Dept., would do anything intentionally

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to hurt the national interest and it may be for other reasons that he was disliked in some quarters. His mention of FBI may correspond with Mr. Dulles's idea that that is the other government agency that gave Mr. Stevenson guidance and suggested he come to CIA.

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